

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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NEW THEORY OF ZIMBABWE A GREAT RHODESIAN MYSTERY

A SURPRISING solution of the mysterious origin of the famous Zimbabwe ruins in Southern Rhodesia has recently been offered. It is generally believed that the buildings were erected by Bantus during the 14th century. Now Pandit Anandriya, Principal of Ayra Kanya College, Baroda, having inspected Zimbabwe and the objects found there, declares confidently that it was originally a temple to the India god Shiva.

The Pandit was accompanied by a party of Indian Girl Guides.

Pandit Anandriya says that the pottery work and earthen vessels taken from the Zimbabwe ruins closely resemble South Indian patterns; and that gold rings and beads found there are identical with those used by Shiva worshippers.

"When visiting the ruins," he said, "we saw near the entrance a tree which is known in India as the kadam tree. This tree is a common feature of Indian temples, especially those of Lord Shiva. We also found four trees with small white fragrant flowers, known as bakul. The bakul tree is common in all Shiva temples and must have been imported from India."

Bird of Heaven

Zimbabwe, he points out, is shaped like a Shiva temple, and the famous Zimbabwe bird symbol on a stone pillar—shown today on Rhodesian coins—is none other than the Garud, which in Hindu mythology is the auspicious bird of Heaven.

Wall-carvings of bulls reminded the Indian Girl Guides of Nandi, the bull prominent in Shiva worship; and they also noted three lines on the conical temple similar to the three lines which every Shiva devotee in India marks with burnt wood on his forehead.

Three stones embedded in the front of the temple must have been imported from India, as they are found nowhere else, declared Pandit Anandriya. "Nowhere in Africa have the Natives cut stones in the fashion we have seen in the ruins, but this is done all over India."

FESTIVAL HEAD



This plaster head will be one of the exhibits in the Dome of Discovery at the Festival in London.

RUBBER RAILWAY TRAIN

THE local police at the American town of St Paul were warned to be on the look-out for "a 100-foot dragon with green, spiked ears and a bright red tongue."

It was not a real dragon, however, but just a gigantic rubber balloon which had been specially made for a carnival procession. It was to have been carried by about twenty boys dressed in clown costumes, but on this occasion it had been stolen by practical jokers.

This monster must be about the largest balloon ever made, but the same collection of carnival pieces includes a 300-foot-long train, built up of hundreds of separate balloons zipped or tied together. Even the wheels are balloons!

To make the Oomph Express, as it is called, run, the locomotive is mounted on a lorry which pulls the whole train along. An amplifier hidden in the lorry provides train noises, just to add to the realism as the rubber train chugs down the street.

At last there is a railway train which can have a puncture!

Jet lullaby

THERE is no engine vibration on a jet plane. Pilot and passengers get a smooth, fast ride with just the whine of the turbine as accompaniment.

Strangely enough, it is the aircraft instruments which do not take kindly to this feather-bed treatment. Without vibration they tend to stick or lag, owing to friction between their various gears.

This was first noticed on sailplanes, or gliders. Without vibration, many of the instruments would not function properly, and pilots used to fit electric buzzers on the instrument panel to "shake the works up."

Now a special vibrator has been produced for fitting to the instrument panels of jet aircraft—a sort of alarm clock to prevent them going to sleep!

GRIT

SAND taken from the beach at Crail in Scotland is to be charged at 2s a ton for building purposes, and 2s 6d a ton for poultry purposes. But anyone may have a sackful for nothing, because "anyone who carries a sack of sand up the hill from the beach deserves to get it for nothing."

CAN YOU BEAT IT?



During celebrations of the Tibetan New Year a troupe of wandering players gave an open-air performance in Kalimpong, and this musician helped to provide the accompaniment by using a curved drumstick on an instrument called a nga.

FOR PAINTING ROCKING HORSES

AMERICANS can now buy spotted paint, in a single tin. Brushed or sprayed on, it gives a sort of polka-dot effect, one light colour speckled with another darker colour.

Magicians have no advantage over paint manufacturers in this respect. In fact, the man who invented this new paint says that it was the old stage trick of painting striped or dotted patterns with a single stroke of a brush which started him on the idea.

Now these spotted paints sell in a range of sixteen colour combinations, and do not cost very much more than ordinary paints.

The young scorpion-hunters POCKET MONEY FOR TICKLISH JOB

How would you like to catch scorpions to earn pocket money? Not much, perhaps; but eight-year-old Gysbert Zumpf and his brother Boetie have found it a most profitable hobby.

Dr K. Zumpf is a research worker at the Medical Institute in Johannesburg, where activities were held up recently because of a temporary shortage of anti-toxins.

The good doctor was worried, but his spirits rose one afternoon when his two boys showed him a jar with a scorpion they had caught on the hills behind their house at Melville.

Scorpion poison was just the thing that Dr Zumpf and his fellow-workers needed, so he provided the boys with tweezers and sent them into the hills to gather scorpions, promising them extra pocket money.

A dangerous job? Well, yes,

but the children had already caught so many that there was little risk in trying to get a few more; and this is their hunting technique.

With a long pole Gysbert lifts a rock while Boetie is at hand with his tweezers. The wriggling scorpion is picked up by the waist and deposited in a glass jar. When they have caught enough, the boys go off home and put the captured scorpions into a safe place until Dad returns from the laboratory.

In this way these two youngsters have been able to help the Medical Institute of Johannesburg during a critical shortage, enabling scientists to continue their investigations into the causes of a number of animal scourges.

Incidentally, they have also added quite a bit to their pocket money.

TOO SUCCESSFUL

A PERIOD of drought in the Catskill Mountains, New York State, last November caused so much inconvenience that New York city's rainmaker, Dr W. Howell, was called in. So successful were his efforts to induce rainfall that floods were caused and considerable damage was done to property. Now the mountain village of Margaretville has filed a suit in the State Supreme Court against New York for £357,000 damages.

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India and Pakistan are trading again

THE trade deadlock between India and Pakistan, which has existed for one-and-a-half years, has at last been broken, and both countries have now agreed to renew their mutual trade with energy and vigour. The significance of this agreement lies more in the victory of common sense than in the fact that commerce will flow again.

First, let us examine the causes of this economic quarrel. It will be remembered that in September 1949 Britain devalued the pound sterling. This meant that from then on one pound sterling could buy only two dollars eighty cents in American currency instead of four dollars. This also meant that we were able to sell goods to America much more cheaply than before.

Britain's lead was followed by the devaluation of all Commonwealth currencies except that of Pakistan. That Dominion refused to devalue because its cheap principal exports—jute, rice, and grain—would have had to be sold even more cheaply.

Unfortunately this decision hit India more than any other country. Pakistan's refusal to devalue meant that Indian textile mills would have to pay much more for Pakistan jute and cotton. On the other hand, Pakistan would have been able to buy Indian coal and steel and a host of other products much more cheaply.

India's angry answer to this was to stop practically all trade with Pakistan. But there was more than a stoppage of trade: accusations were being hurled across the frontiers.

Facts, however, have proved

stronger than words. Pakistan needs coal, steel, textiles, and engineering products which she can more easily obtain from India than from anywhere else in the world. India, again, needs jute, cotton, hides, and, above all, grain to feed her hungry millions.

Seventeen months of this silent trade war were sufficient to make the situation most uncomfortable for both countries. Unemployment began to threaten India and Pakistan alike; smuggling became rife all along their borders; economic life was almost at a standstill.

The news that this hopeless economic war has ceased after a sensible round-table talk was received with a sigh of relief by millions of people throughout the sub-continent.

There is now hope that most, if not all, difficulties between the two Dominions will be removed. Pakistan will get over two million tons of coal and also coke, pig iron, steel and various manufactures. Her railways and industrial development schemes will now go forward. On the other hand, India, threatened by famine, will get grain for her people, and jute and cotton for her mills.

Common sense and good will have triumphed!

COALMAN'S WEAR

WHEN you next see the coalman delivering coal, make a note of his attire; you will see that he wears his trousers quite differently from Father. That is because he uses "back leathers."

Back leathers protect his clothing from dust and damage. But in Whitehall they are classed as "garments," and as "garments" are liable to Purchase Tax; and MPs cannot get the Chancellor to free them from tax.

Bruin on the menu

CHILDREN in Corporation homes in Manchester have had a dish of bear—and have pronounced it excellent.

The bear, weighing 40 pounds, and more than two feet tall, was flown from Switzerland as a gift to the children from the people of Berne. But it was not intended to supplement a meagre meat ration, for it was made entirely of milk chocolate!

Officials worked out that it contained enough chocolate to make a week's sweet ration for 128 people.

The chocolate bear was handed over to the Lord Mayor of Manchester by the Swiss Consul there, who told the CN that the shape of a bear was chosen because bears are the emblem of the City of Berne.



Nursery rhyme in heraldry

"ON a wreath of the colours, upon a horse trippant argent, a lady habited in Tudor costume, coiffed and vested purple, mantled vert"—thus in the language of heraldry is described the crest of the new armorial bearings especially designed for Banbury, in Oxfordshire.

The place-name may give a clue to the identity of "the lady habited in Tudor costume"; she is none other than the celebrated "fine lady upon a white horse" of the nursery rhyme which urges people to ride to Banbury Cross to see her. It has been felt that her fame is sufficient to entitle her to a place in the borough's new coat-of-arms.

FRIENDLY FOLK

AUSTRALIA is not the only nation holding jubilee celebrations this year. The people of the Tonga or Friendly Islands, in the Western Pacific, about 400 miles east of Fiji, have been celebrating fifty years of happy association with Britain. Queen Salote of Tonga has spoken of the "blessings of the islands' treaty with Britain."

These truly friendly islands, of which there are about 200, have a native population of 47,000, and only a handful of Europeans, including a High Commissioner. All the natives live well on the produce of the land; all receive education and hospital treatment free; and all can read and write. There is no income tax.

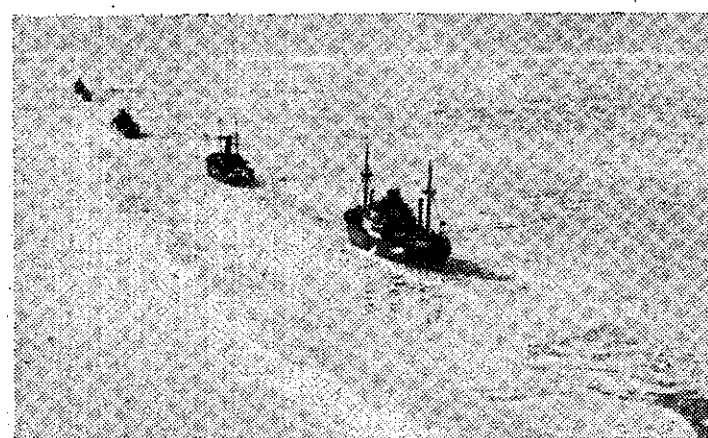
New role for Jerusalem

WHILE the Festival of Britain rises on the South Bank of the Thames a similar adventurous enterprise is taking shape in Jerusalem, where the Jewish people, on a spur of hills to the south-west of the city, are erecting a series of People's Palaces.

The first great hall will be ready this year to seat the 3500 delegates to the Zionist Congress.

From the roof of the hall, 100 feet above the hilltop, there is a magnificent view of Jerusalem, the hills round Bethlehem, and the Jordan valley. Near the hall the foundations are being dug of a new Acropolis to house the great musical and drama festivals. It will provide room for an orchestra of 500, and an open-air theatre to seat 10,000.

It is hoped that these new palaces of Jerusalem will attract conferences from all over the world, for Jerusalem, in her new role, sees herself as "the Geneva of the Orient"—an international city where east and west can meet.



Where winter lingers

Sturdy little ice-breakers force their way through the ice of the Gulf of Finland to keep open the ports near Helsinki.

SIXPENNY TOOTH

FEW of us can remember cutting our first tooth, but our elders are generally ready to describe the heavy weather we made in producing it.

Fortunate—though they do not yet realise it—are the babies of the Beatrix Nursery, East Knoyle, Wiltshire, which is run by the Children's Union of the Church of England Children's Society. For as soon as a Beatrix Nursery nite proudly displays the first white speck in its pink gums it is given a 6d Savings stamp.

More stamps follow on such occasions as the first step, first word, birthday, and so on. Each baby is adopted by a student nurse who buys it the Savings stamps, and godparents in nearby villages also contribute.

These tooth-cutters and toddlers thus constitute the youngest Savings group in the country. Some of the babies are adopted before they are a year old, others stay until they begin school, but no child leaves the Beatrix Nursery with less than five shillings on its Savings card.

NOT TO BE SNEEZED AT

Manufacturers are seeking the permission of the Board of Trade to make handkerchiefs of specially strong material designed to stand up to rough usage by schoolboys.

NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

FEBRUARY FILL-DYKE

February rainfall at Kew totalled 4.98 inches. The month's average is 1.54 inches. Since the beginning of the year 7.85 inches of rain has been measured—the highest ever recorded for January and February.

Amateur radio enthusiasts are invited to join the R A F Volunteer Radio Service. They are offered a bounty of £7 10s a year and £1 10s efficiency pay, as well as an R A F receiver for home training.

Through Mrs W. N. Mitchell's generosity, Court Lodge, Knockholt, near Sevenoaks, has been acquired by the Fairbridge Society as a reception centre where children will be prepared for their new life in the society's schools overseas.

Beddington and Wallington Road Safety Committees are considering the idea of a training course for dogs because of the large number of accidents in the borough which were caused by dogs last year.

Scout explorer

Sixteen-year-old Patrol Leader Michael Harlow, of the 2nd Wallasey Sea Scout Troop, has been chosen to receive Earl Mountbatten's bursary for this year's Iceland Expedition of the British Schools Exploration Society.

Oxford University has received a £60,000 grant for the development of a farm at Wytham as a university field station for research, and for the training of students.

Miss C. J. Eldridge, a former Stoke Newington music teacher who recently celebrated her 104th birthday, still writes her own personal and business letters.

The *Cutty Sark*, last of the famous clipper tea ships, has gone into dry dock at Millwall for a survey of her hull. If found to be sound she may be given a permanent mooring in the Thames and preserved as a memorial to the old sailing ships.

MEET THE NAVY

Navy Days will be held at Portsmouth and Chatham at Easter; and at Plymouth at Whitsun, when the public will be allowed over the warships in harbour.

The Sacred Congregation of Rights, meeting in Rome, has proclaimed the Archangel Gabriel as the patron saint of telephonists and telegraphists.

Workmen engaged in restoring Windsor Guildhall have discovered four of the town's charters dating back to 1440. All are in excellent condition.

Students of Stuttgart have presented the driver and fireman of a train with gifts of flowers and wine for "respecting the dignity of the human hat." They had halted a train when a student's hat was blown on the track.

The US Air Force is negotiating with the General Electric Company for the construction of an atomic engine for aircraft.

Britain's export of 236,519 bicycles in January was 14,809 higher than the previous record—March 1949.

OAKS FROM . . .

Infant schoolchildren in Lincolnshire have collected 650,000 acorns to be planted in Willingham Forest as part of the national afforestation scheme.

The East Kent Light Railway between Wingham and Shepherd's Well has been closed, except the 2½ miles of track connecting Tilmanstone colliery with Shepherd's Well, over which about 120 wagons of coal pass each day.

Two conferences in April for schoolboys of about 17 who are considering the possibility of training for the Church have been arranged by the Central Advisory Council at Jesus College, Oxford.

A new graving dock is to be built at Dublin at a cost of £892,641. The work will probably take three years.

No Doctors

During a recent influenza epidemic at Lazcano, Spain, all the local doctors were victims and town criers were posted at street corners to shout instructions about treatment.

The Meteorological Office plans to sell weather charts for a penny at their Festival of Britain exhibit.

Toll of the roads

Accidents on British roads last year numbered 166,592 and involved 5012 persons killed and 196,313 injured. These figures are the highest for any year since the war.

The Livingstone Trust seeks support for a proposal to establish an annual commemoration on March 19, the birthday of David Livingstone, the famous missionary-explorer.

The Finnish Exchange Travel Office is prepared to offer return hospitality in Finland during the Olympic Games in 1952 to anyone willing to accommodate young Finnish people visiting this country during the Festival of Britain.

Kilmory Castle, in the West Highlands, Kilvrough Manor, near Swansea, and the Old Mill, near Robin Hood's Bay, Yorkshire, will shortly be available as Youth Hostels.

MINDING MINES

Steps are being taken to make some 2000 disused mineshafts in West Cornwall harmless to wayfarers and animals. A voluntary society has been formed for the purpose.

The Isle of Man is to have its own National Trust with power to acquire places of historic interest or beauty for public ownership.

MYSTERY IN A TATTERED WAISTCOAT

THE discovery of a bloodstone seal that may have belonged to Cecil Rhodes has presented a problem to amateur detectives in Southern Rhodesia.

The mystery began when someone in Umtali not long ago unearthed an age-tattered waistcoat that fell to pieces when it was picked up. But inside it was an old-fashioned sovereign case with some coins and the bloodstone seal.

This seal bears the initials C. J. R.—those of Cecil Rhodes—

but the sovereign case has the initials G. F. Y. It is known that Cecil Rhodes lost his dispatch case at Umtali, in the 1890s, but who could "G. F. Y." have been? A careful search of the records reveals no trace of a person with those initials ever having been at Umtali, or associated with Rhodes.

Did the unknown G. F. Y. find Rhodes's dispatch case and purloin the seal? But if so, how came he to lose his own waistcoat with its sovereign case?

NEW LIFE FOR OLD MINES

THE Ministry of Supply is planning to reopen two lead mines in the villages of Wanlockhead and Leadhills, on the borders of Lanarkshire and Dumfriesshire, closed 15 years ago because they were unprofitable. The metal was then costing £14 a ton to produce and its market value was £11 a ton.

With lead now £130 a ton, these old mines may give a profitable yield, for this is the most heavily mineralised land in the country, and rich veins of lead lie under ten square miles.

The first short-term plan is to extract 18,500 tons of lead, and 12,500 tons of zinc blende, the market value of which is £159 a ton. Only two of the 40 or 50 rich veins of mineral in this area have previously been tapped.

PILLOWPHONE FOR PATIENTS

PILLOWPHONE, the latest inter-communication system, has just been installed in a nursing home at Wisbech, Cambridgeshire. The device, the first of its kind in England, permits two-way conversation between patients and nurses, and is small enough to be fitted inside a rubber cover which can be placed under the pillow.

The advantages of the installation are that it greatly reduces a nurse's walking time, maintains direct communication, constantly relays the patient's rate of breathing, and can be adapted to link up with radio programmes.

TREES

SOME of the most beautiful lines written by Joyce Kilmer, the American poet, are to be found in his poem *Trees*, which was set to music and became one of the most popular songs in the immediate pre-war period. The people of Pittsburgh thought so, too, and included on the plaque at the base of his memorial in the South Park the two lines:

*I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.*

Now most of the elm trees round the memorial are to be cut down so that passers-by may read the inscription!

NO TALLER THAN GRANDFATHER

THE average height of men does not appear to have altered during the last century, according to a statement in the *British Medical Journal*.

What has happened, however, is that the maximum height is now reached at about the age of twenty, six years earlier than in the nineteenth century. Children today are taller and heavier than twenty years ago.

FLINDERS' CHEST

A SEA chest that belonged to Matthew Flinders has been presented to the Public Library of Victoria, Australia, by Mrs F. Dods, who lives in the Lincolnshire village of Donnington where the great navigator was born in 1774. The chest is six feet long and elaborately carved with classical scenes.

WE KEEP LEFT

It is sometimes said that this is one of the few countries in which traffic keeps to the left-hand side of the road.

But it is interesting to remember that no fewer than 85 countries specify driving on the left and 101 on the right.

Driving from England through to Sweden, for example, this can be very muddling. Starting by driving on the left down to the port of embarkation, we then keep to the right through France, Belgium, Holland, and Denmark.

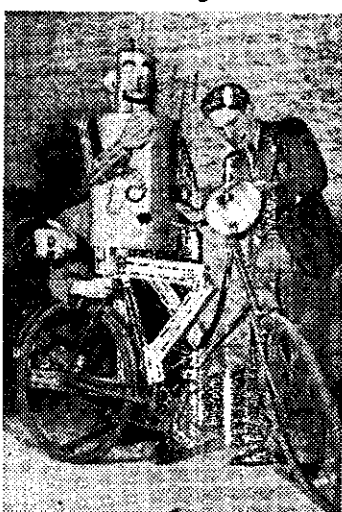
Just as we have become used to that we enter Sweden and have to start driving on the left again! Some countries, such as Hungary, too, have changed from one rule to the other.

OLD SCHOOL BADGES

THE Liverpool Blue Coat School has adopted as its badge the coat-of-arms of Bryn Blundell, who founded the school early in the 18th century.

Another Liverpool school, Barlows, at Fazakerley, claims to have one of the most historic badges in the country. This is the coat-of-arms of the Fazakerley family, dating from the 12th century.

Robot cyclist



Two students of Bristol University Engineering Department give a spot of grease to "Dynamo Joe," a robot cyclist which rode through the streets for a charity collection.

ENGLISH WITHOUT TEARS

THE monthly publication, *English Illustrated*, which was started last year for students of English in other countries, has proved very popular in Scandinavia. In Sweden alone demands for it from schools, colleges, and adult education groups have exceeded 20,000.

It is the first publication of foreign origin to be approved by the education authorities of Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden.

Most foreigners learning our language in their own countries find our newspapers too difficult to read at first. Their own textbooks, too, often give them a false impression of life in Britain. Thus, Swedish schoolchildren still use an English textbook which tells them that all English boys go to Eton and wear top hats!

These young students are now able to read about Britain and its way of life in correct yet simple, English.



Sculpture in steel

At the Sculpture Centre in New York, sculptors are working in steel instead of the usual materials. Here we see a sculptor using a welding torch to fashion a model.

YOUTH DISCUSSES PEACE

THE World Forum of Youth has opened once again, and 26 delegates from various countries have flown here to take part in discussions and to stay for several weeks with British families and attend British schools.

The Forum has been organised by the *Daily Mail* in association with the Council for Education in World Citizenship. The theme this year is Our Way to Peace, and the delegates will give their own countries' points of view.

The Forum opened in London, and there are to be eight other forums: at Oxford on March 15, Stoke on March 19, Swansea on March 21, Sheffield on April 17, Edinburgh on April 20, Nottingham on April 24, Liverpool on April 26, and at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on May 7.

The young people, whose average age is 17½, come from Australia, New Zealand, America, Jamaica, South Africa, Canada, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Norway, and Sweden.

NEW HANSEATIC LEAGUE

HOLLAND is proposing to revive the medieval Hanseatic League of Channel Ports, including the Port of London, for the regulation of shipping and port rates.

The League was originally a combination of towns in North-west Germany for mutual protection against the pirates of the Baltic, and mutual defence of their liberties against the encroachments of neighbouring princes.

It was established in 1241 and flourished for several centuries. At one time it included 64 towns and possessed fleets and armies, and an exchequer and government of its own. The League dwindled during the Thirty Years' War to six cities, and finally to three—Hamburg, Lubeck, and Bremen.

OFF THE RECORD

BAROMETRIC pressure over the West of Scotland was so low one day recently that the pen which traces an ink record on the barograph at the meteorological office at Renfrew Airport dropped off the paper!

MODERN HOUSES OF MUD

AUSTRALIANS in the hot Northern Territory are going back to mud or adobe houses—houses made of earth bricks dried in the sun.

As in Britain, there is a serious shortage of houses in Australia, where the problem has been aggravated by the arrival of half-a-million immigrants since the war. Experiments at making houses of this primitive material have given good results, for it has been found that in hot climates earth-houses are much cooler than most temporary structures.

Special equipment has been installed in Melbourne for making this new type of house, and an expert has been going the rounds explaining to builders how to make strong mud walls.

AIR DROVER

WHEN a large herd of cattle at South Galway, Queensland, was threatened by floods, the cattle-station owner hired Captain Bluey Young, of Trans-Australia Airlines, to try to rescue the herd.

In a De Havilland Dragon, this airman flew just above tree-top level and succeeded in driving most of the cattle to higher ground—an aerial roundup which saved the station owner £10,000.

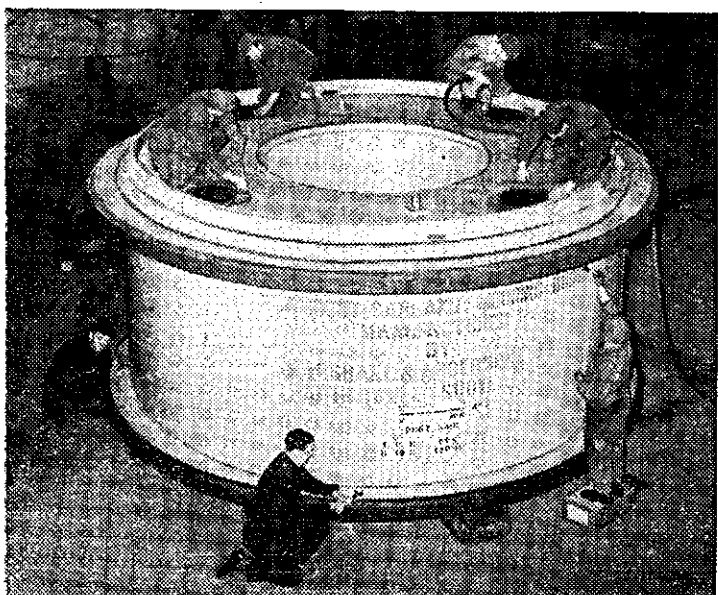
STAMP NEWS

THREE countries are issuing stamps to commemorate sporting events: India for the Asiatic Games this year; Norway for the next Olympic Games; Rumania for the World Universities Winter Sports of 1951.

GREECE proposes to issue stamps in honour of the 19th centenary of the arrival of St Paul in Europe.

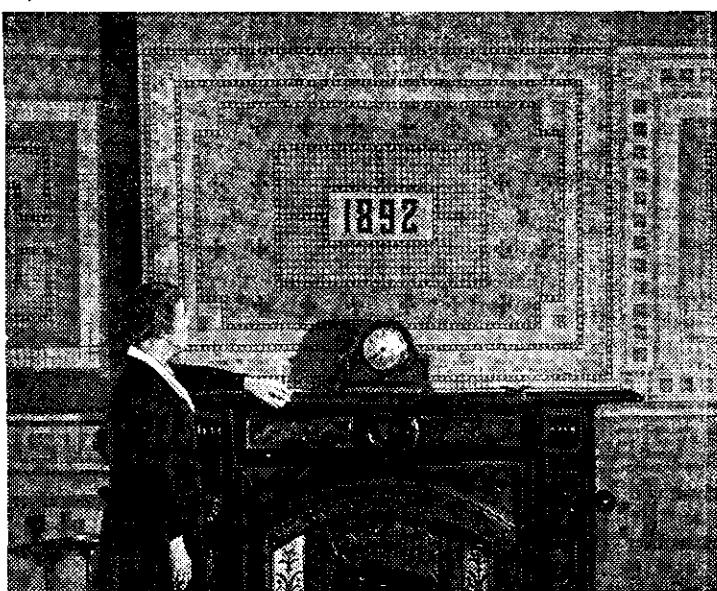
THE 1950 New Zealand Health stamps which showed Princess Elizabeth and Prince Charles broke all the previous records. Thirteen million stamps were sold, and £39,000 was passed on to Children's Health Camps.

THE centenary of the death of the Danish scientist Hans Christian Oersted—noted in last week's CN—will be marked with a special stamp to be issued in Denmark.



Such a big buoy!

This new type of buoy, the largest ever made in Scotland, is the first of three destined for the Suez Canal. It weighs 14 tons.



Papered with stamps

One of the most unusual rooms in England must be the library of Mr Whitfield King, of Ipswich, Suffolk. The room is papered wholly with mint stamps from all over the world—44,068 of them. The room took three months to paper.

Palm Sunday privilege

THE growing of palm trees is quite a profitable industry on the French and Italian Riviera. Some 100,000 leaves are exported to all parts of the world for use in churches on Palm Sunday, and for the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles.

The privilege of supplying palms to the Vatican and churches in Rome is held by a family named Bresca, of San Remo. It was granted by the Pope in 1584 in circumstances which make an interesting story.

An obelisk which had lain half buried in the sand at San Remo was ordered by the Pope to be brought to Rome. Preparations were made to raise the huge block, and when all was ready the Pope himself came along to watch the work.

When with capstan and ropes the monolith had been raised to

an almost perpendicular position the ropes stretched and the stone slowly began to fall backwards.

Suddenly came a cry: "Fetch water wet the ropes." Someone obeyed, water was thrown on the ropes, and the slackened hemp contracted. In a few moments the feat was accomplished, and the column stood upright.

Bresca, a sea captain, whose presence of mind had saved the situation, was brought before the Pope, and after receiving his blessing was granted the privilege of furnishing the Papal palace with palms.

He was also made a captain in the Pontifical Army, with the right of wearing the uniform and hoisting the Papal flag on his vessel. The Papal Brief is still preserved by the Bresca family.

SPORTS SHORTS

"SUGAR" RAY ROBINSON, world middle-weight boxing champion, will give all but one franc of his purse to the Cancer Society of France when he defends his title in Paris in May.

LEN HUTTON has scored 4652 runs in Test cricket, the highest aggregate of the 43 Yorkshiremen who have played for England. Sutcliffe's total was 4555.

THE nine-mile course at Caerleon, Newport, on which the International Cross-country Championship will be run on Saturday, March 31, will include 8-foot water jumps and at least 100 yards of ploughland. The United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Spain, and Holland are all represented, and England's hopes are centred on Dr Frank Aaron, the great Yorkshire runner, who was fourth at Brussels last season.

Two young South African cyclists—George Estman, an iron moulder, and Abe Heuer, a boilermaker—recently arrived in England. Estman, who was in South Africa's Olympic team in 1948, will compete in many of our track events. Heuer is out for road-racing trials.

CHICKO RAAMAN, radio officer of an airliner flying between Israel and London, is to try for one of our national diving championships in July. Twice a week, as soon as he touches down in London, he goes to a swimming bath for an hour's diving practice before hurrying back to the airport.

MRS HAMILTON BATES, mother of a seven-year-old daughter, is a remarkable sportswoman. Not only is she prominent in England's women's hockey team, but she has also won a number of free-style swimming championships, and has gained honours at lawn tennis, badminton, squash, and ice skating.

JEANNETTE ALTWEGG, the new women's world figure-skating champion, has reached the heights in five years. At 15 she won the British junior title; next year she was senior champion, a title she still holds; this year she has added the European and world crowns. Jeannette aspires to win an Olympic title next year. Well done, Jeannette!

SIGNOR GONELLA, Italian Minister for Education, recently announced that athletics will be compulsory in the curriculum of all schools in the country.

No jarring notes here

IN the Royal Festival Hall on London's South Bank, now almost complete, Britain will have the finest concert hall in the world; and not only for the Festival of Britain, but for future years and generations.

It is a tribute to the experts that this sound-perfect hall has been raised in the centre of one of London's noisiest areas. Only a stone's throw away is busy Waterloo Station, and all the time trains are rumbling past on Charing Cross Bridge. On the Thames itself is the constant noise of rivercraft. In such a setting the architects have built a concert hall as near perfection as anything planned this century.

Many tests have already been made of the acoustics. Instruments have been tried for balance, and a recording van has made records of extraneous noises to ensure elimination. Recently an 80-strong orchestra played a programme calculated to scale the heights and plumb the depths of musical sounds, from *pianissimo* to *fortissimo*. The verdict of the experts was: "Acoustics admirable."

When TV develops

BBC experts were consulted over each operation, so that equipment has been placed to the greatest advantage; for instance, the sound reflectors can be tilted to direct sound forward into the auditorium. The raceway, or channel, running just under the floor, permits rapid and easy laying of cables when television broadcasting develops. Commentators' boxes are below the balcony, with vision and control panels at a higher level. There is room for film projectors at the back of the hall.

The lower balcony can be reserved, if needed, for wheel chairs, which, by a small ramp, can be brought from the lift straight on to the balcony, giving invalid visitors comfortable positions. Every facility that can be has, in fact, been introduced, after taking the views of the people who will be using them.

British workers and British weather

THE American film producer, Mr Harry Joe Brown, was so pleased with British technicians when he made the Columbia Pictures film *Dick Turpin's Ride* in England last autumn, that he is to make another film here this summer—*Captain Blood Returns*, a tale of Rafael Sabatini's pirate hero.

There are many outdoor scenes in the first film, and Mr Brown said of the film technicians who worked for him: "I have never known finer co-operation than I had while shooting *Dick Turpin's Ride* at Ashridge Park, Ivinghoe Beacon, and Midhurst.

In that film of the notorious highwayman, soon to be released, Mr Brown claims to have shown the English weather "as it really is." This is, perhaps, a little hard on our much-maligned climate, for we are told that in the film "much of the dawn action, set against bleak and sinister backgrounds, contains shots of angry skies and wind-swept moors."

Let us hope that the kinder weather will prevail when Mr Brown visits us this summer.

Tankers keep pace with growing trade

THE first overseas petroleum trade grew up in the 1870s, and until the bulk tanker was designed ten years later, petroleum was carried in barrels. But oil is the most rapidly expanding industry, and tankers have to keep pace. At present nearly 100 tankers are being built in this country, averaging almost 12,000 gross tons apiece, and the biggest will carry 32,000 tons of oil.

Tankers look much alike. Funnel and engines are aft, to reduce the danger of fire and to simplify pumping. Amidships is the navigation bridge and officers' quarters—but all eating and smoking is done aft, for only there are naked lights permitted. A loaded tanker lies deep in the water, so flying bridges, called "catwalks," connect fore'shead, bridge, and poop.

Fire is the greatest menace to tankers carrying petrol or aviation spirit—strangely enough, particularly when the ship is empty, for it is then that gases collect. Petrol quickly corrodes the hull and is only carried in new ships. After about ten years the tanker goes over to carrying crude oil, which is heavy and sticky, and sometimes requires heating to make it flow through the pipes.

Tankers for lubricating oil may carry 27 varieties at once; that is one reason why a tanker is divided into a honeycomb of small tanks. Tankers also bring home whale oil from the factory ships in the Antarctic, and carry molasses (sugar syrup).

Tricking the foe

Tankers are immensely valuable ships, and, being easily identified, were singled out for special attention by submarines during the last war. To bamboozle the enemy, some tankers were rigged with a dummy funnel amidships, while samson-posts aft mysteriously emitted smoke.

Because of the many watertight tanks into which they are divided, tankers which have broken in two have often remained afloat. A tanker is actually being built in two parts at the moment. The first half is due to be launched from the Sunderland yard of John Brown

and Sons for Norwegian owners this month.

There have been cases of a tanker catching fire and surviving. Most famous was the war-time *San Demetrio*, of London, torpedoed and abandoned ablaze in the Atlantic by her crew, later reboarded by some of her crew, who found the fire had not spread to the tanks, and eventually brought their fire-ravaged ship safely into port. It is an epic story, and was made into one of our most thrilling film documentaries.

In home ports, tankers discharge at distant outports, such as Thameshaven for London, where stringent regulations for safety are enforced. Time spent in port is short, as the liquid cargo is pumped ashore in a few hours. Compensations for the crews are good conditions, high wages, and long leaves.

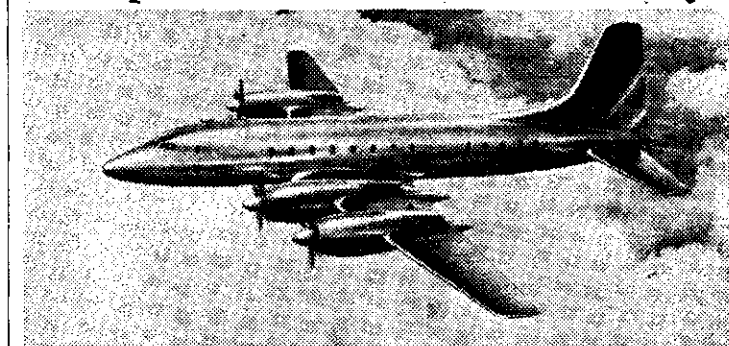
HISTORY OF PARLIAMENT

NOT everyone knows that a history of Parliament is being written. The project was started in 1933, largely on the initiative of Lord Wedgwood, and funds have been contributed from private sources. Two volumes were published before the war.

Now the Government are to make an annual grant not exceeding £17,000 to help the work forward. The history will be divided into appropriate periods, and will provide a detailed record of the personnel of Parliament, with an outline of the principal transactions in each recorded session.

Thus will the nation get a survey of the development and continuity of Parliament through the centuries as an integral part of the British Constitution.

New planes for the world's airways



10. The Bristol 175

IN a large hangar at Filton, home of the Brabazon, the prototype of another huge airliner is taking shape—the Bristol 175.

BOAC have such confidence in the possibilities of this new aircraft that they have ordered 25 "straight off the drawing-board."

Although the machine is unlikely to spread its 140-foot span wings and fly before mid-1952, it will eventually be used on Empire

routes to South Africa and the Far East. Four 3500 h.p. Proteus turboprops will power the Bristol 175 and give it a cruising speed of 340 m.p.h. at 27,500 feet.

Every consideration is being given to the comfort of air travellers. Separate dressing-rooms are provided for men and women, and there is a buffet for cold snacks and drinks, as well as a galley with electric ovens for heating pre-frozen meals.

The standard version will seat 50 to 62 passengers.

Romance packed in sardine tins

Although French Morocco lies so much closer to the Equator than the British Isles, the temperature of the water along its Atlantic seaboard in the height of summer is lower than that of the Shetland Islands. Therein lies the secret of the prosperity of Morocco's fishing industry, whose rapid growth is a fascinating story of bold enterprise and peaceful co-operation between native Arab and European settler. It is described here by a C N special correspondent.

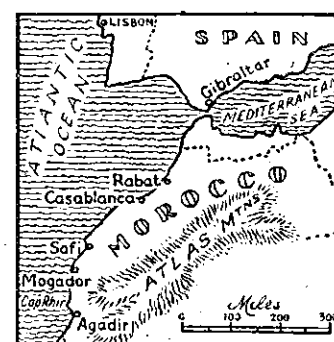
LESS than twenty years ago Morocco boasted barely 500 fishing boats; now it has a fleet of over 2000, manned by mixed crews of European and Arab fishermen, reaping each year a rich harvest of sardines from the sea.

From the great modern port of Casablanca in the north, from Mogador, Safi, and Agadir in the south, the fishing boats put out, and each year ever-increasing numbers of sardine-canning factories find it hard to cope with the huge catches.

Last year, for instance, 150 boats fishing off Safi, and within sight of the shore, made the record catch of 1100 tons of sardines, thus justifying this port's claim to be the main centre of the Moroccan fishing industry.

Why is the sardine—the true sardine, which carries the Latin name of *Sardina pilchardus*—so plentiful off the coast of French Morocco? Well, the answer lies in the cold water.

A warm stream of water, stretching across the Atlantic to the Mediterranean, causes the



cold water to flow towards the Moroccan coast, so that the temperature of the coastal water never exceeds 18 to 20 degrees centigrade in the north, and 14 to 16 degrees around Safi and Agadir in the south. And it is in this range of temperatures that the sardine thrives.

The sardine breeds in a temperature of 17-18 degrees C. At the age of one year the female sardine can lay 25,000 eggs, and each year this number increases; when four years old it can lay 250,000!

THE young sardines spend their infancy in shoals near the shore in the warm water of the northern area, and in a warm spot just above Agadir at Cap Rhir, but by the time they are four they must have colder water, about 16 degrees C, and so they move to the southern area—to the cold stream around Mogador, Safi, and Agadir.

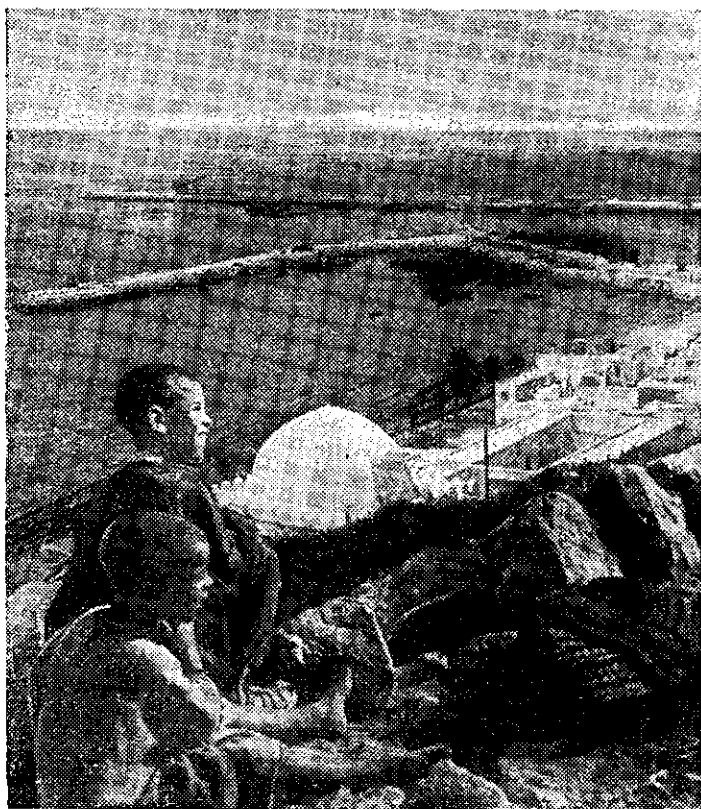
There the fishermen reap the rich harvest of the sardine's amazing productiveness. Nor, as in other sardine zones of the world, are they faced with any likelihood of the harvest failing through the sardines moving to other waters, for the fish are flanked on both north and south by water too warm for them.

UNDER such favoured conditions it is no wonder that Morocco's output of tinned sardines was the biggest of any country last year, and that the factories have increased during the past five years from 20 to over 200, all equipped with the most up-to-date machinery. And that is why sardines are now plentiful in our grocery shops—our Ministry of Food bought 100 million tins of sardines from Morocco last year, at a cost of nearly £4,000,000.

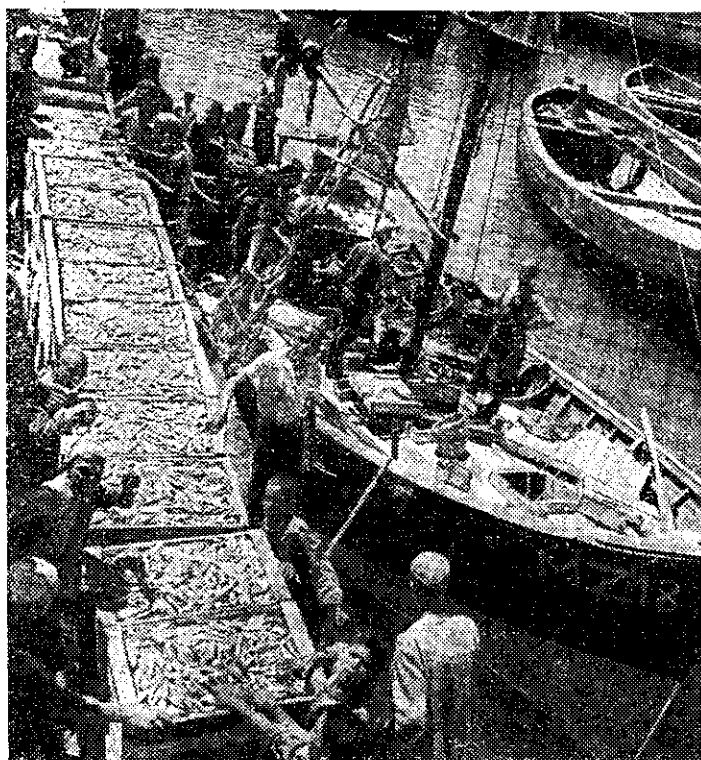
Every operation in the processing and canning of the sardines—cleaning, drying, putting in the home-produced olive or other vegetable oil, sealing and sterilising—is watched carefully in every factory by inspectors, including a resident inspector of our Food Ministry.

Thus has a great industry, and one of many, been built up in a country which only a few years ago was torn by strife and indeed was one of the most backward in the world.

THERE is much still to be done, but great strides have been made in the plan which that great and beloved French soldier and diplomat, Marshal Lyautey, outlined for the development of Morocco when he became the first Resident-General of the Protectorate in 1912. Before long the country may become a second California.



Looking down on the port of Agadir



Unloading a big catch of sardines



A machine pours oil into the tins



Cleaning the sardines



Automatically sealing the tins

The photographs, by J. Belin, are reproduced by courtesy of the Moroccan Tourist Office

Children's Newspaper

John Carpenter, House
Whitefriars, London, E.C.4

MARCH 17 1951

LITTLE WRONG WITH YOUTH

SIR HARTLEY SHAWCROSS, who as Attorney-General should know as much about the moral character of our country as anyone, says that modern youth has "a higher standard of good behaviour and responsibility than ever before. Those who speak of decadent youth are talking rot!"

As he pointed out, it is "the bad ones" who make the news while "the good attract no notice." He believes that the talk which is so common about decadent youth is unfair to the majority of our young people.

Sir Hartley Shawcross wants youth to be helped through this time of fear about the future, and given confidence and security. What he termed "crabbing the young people of our country" is a disservice to the rising generation. The leaders of the future now need advice, encouragement, and praise, for much is expected of them.

I KNEW THAT WOULD HAPPEN . . .

A NEAT piece of wisdom recently came from Mr Fernyhough, M.P. for Jarrow. He was referring to people who are Always Right.

"All those members opposite who have spoken in this debate remind me very much of my mother when I was a child. If I broke anything she always said, 'I knew that would happen.' But, of course, if she had known it was going to happen she wouldn't have let me carry what-ever it was that I had dropped."

Under the Editor's Table

WHEN children leave school efforts are made to fit round pegs into round holes. And give them a square deal.

A LADY pianist says she grew up with the piano. It was a baby grand when she was a grand baby.

A MOTORIST complains that his side lights go out. Only when his car does.

ALL travellers are now commercial travellers, says a writer. But some have no business abroad.

BILLY BEETLE

Progress of a crusade to save life

THE number of children killed on the roads last year was the lowest for over 27 years. This is encouraging news for young road-safety crusaders, but still only a small step in the right direction.

At the beginning of 1950 the C.N. asked: must 1,000 boys and girls be killed and 25,000 injured on the roads this year? And it is a tragic thought that the actual number, 868, is only 132 short of this figure, and that the 1950 figure for children injured, 38,912, is higher than the year before—nearly 14,000 more than we feared.

It must be young people's aim to take themselves out of the road casualty figures altogether.

CHILDREN AT WORK

Few people can have had a working life of 98 years, but that was the record of Mr. Daniel Bullen, a farmer of Carbrooke in Norfolk, who died recently at the age of 104. He went to work when he was six, after being at school for only half a day. He was a new boy at his first school one morning, and in the afternoon of the same day he was taken away and sent to work scaring crows.

Country children often had little chance of education in those days, and even today some boys and girls have to work on farms during term time; and recently a deputation representing agricultural workers and teachers visited Whitehall and stressed the need for the complete abolition of this practice.

The Minister of Education said that it was necessary for the children's release from school to continue this year, but that it would be on a reduced scale.

Let us hope it soon disappears altogether.

THIS KIND WORLD

THE latest venture of the Bournville Youth Club is to provide television sets on loan for needy invalids. Thanks to the efforts of club members four sets have already been provided, and the target is to get a further set every six weeks.

Many and various have been the schemes to secure funds, from the running of Saturday night children-only cinema shows, to the selling of ice cream and collecting of rags.

Fifty members give up their spare time to run film shows in hospitals and institutions as well.

This is a grand piece of work by the youth of Bournville. Other youth clubs, please note!

Heads and tails



A drawing of South Indian hair styles by a 16-year-old artist. (From the special Children's Number of Shankar's Weekly, New Delhi.)

SHAMROCK FOR ST PATRICK

SATURDAY, March 17, St Patrick's Day, is always "a great day for the Irish," and Irishmen everywhere will be wearing the Shamrock as part of their observance.

The association of the little green plant with Ireland's patron saint is believed to have its origin in its use by St Patrick to illustrate the doctrine of the Trinity. The shamrock abounds in most places in Ireland and nothing would be easier in his missionary zeal than for him to pick a sprig and show how the three leaves grow upon a single stalk.

The story is told how once at Wicklow St Patrick avoided being stoned by using this illustration, the people who had come to abuse remaining to bless him.

In olden times the country inns were thrown open on St Patrick's Day to all comers, and a repast of oaten bread and fish provided. Feasts and dancing were sometimes carried over to the following day which came to be known as "Sheelah's Day," named after St Patrick's mother—or, as some say, his wife.

The story about St Patrick driving all the snakes out of Ireland is, of course, no more than a pleasant legend.

The lion is back on a pedestal

ON the morning when they learned that their cricketers had beaten Australia all Englishmen seemed to be walking with more jaunty step than usual.

But was it mere coincidence that on that same morning workmen prepared to hoist the great stone lion on to his new pedestal at the Festival of Britain Exhibition in London?

This battered lion that stood so long looking across the Thames was saved from destruction at the King's suggestion, and has been in a packing-case waiting for a new day of glory to dawn.

Well, it has dawned; and we are sure that even the Kangaroo is pleased that the old Lion is back on a pedestal once again!

HIS NAME LIVES ON

ACTIVE member of the Trust which was founded in 1924 by his father, for "research towards the Christian ideal in all social life," Sir Malcolm Stewart, who died at 78 the other day, loyally carried out these principles.

His name will live on in his humane reports on the Special Areas, and in Stewartby, the Bedfordshire village built for the workers of one of his brick-making enterprises.

MOTOR-CARRIAGES

IT is reported that the shortage of sheet steel may lead to cars having wooden bodies.

It is not such a strange idea as it sounds, for we have only to consider the sleek beauty of a wooden Mosquito aircraft to see what timber technicians can do.

After all, the coach-builders of Victorian days achieved some shining wonders with their carriages. Those noble vehicles had a polish and shapeliness any modern motor-car might envy.

But let us hope that the rubber situation will not drive us back to iron tyres!

JUST AN IDEA

As Charles Dickens wrote: Virtue's its own reward. So's jollity.

THINGS SAID

THE people of Yugoslavia have a great protector—the opinion of the peace-loving world. Yugoslav Foreign Minister

SMOKE pollution has caused almost as much damage to the fabric of the Palace of Westminster as Hitler's bombs.

Anthony Greenwood, M.P.

THE Ministry of Labour sent me a chef with the greatest battery of carving knives I have ever seen. He lasted two days. He was a piano-tuner really.

An Isle of Wight hotel-keeper

Too often children get expensive presents when they would be better off with a penknife and a piece of wood.

Mr B. K. Sharp

Three qualities

A GREAT teacher of men was once asked what was the first condition of successful teaching? After some time he replied, "Patience." He was then asked what was the second? and, after a longer pause, he again said "Patience." And then the third? After a still longer silence, as if he were balancing the claims of rival qualities, he answered once more, "Patience."

Canon H. P. Liddon

IN THE COUNTRY

DURING March signs of Spring multiply daily. Wild flowers spring up as by magic; horse-chestnuts unfurl their leaves; elms glow dawn-red in the wood-top; birds begin to nest.

Where the gorse flowers twinkle in little flames of gold in the afternoon sunshine there is the happy hum of busy bees. You may look for them in vain until the sun has taken the chill from the morning air, but after noontide the old familiar bee-music can be heard over the gorse bushes and the pussy-willows by the brook.

For hours the melodious murmur will continue, but, as the sun dips in the west and a breath of chill air drifts up the valley, silence falls—for every nectar-seeking bee has hastily departed, realising instinctively that to linger outdoors may be unwise.



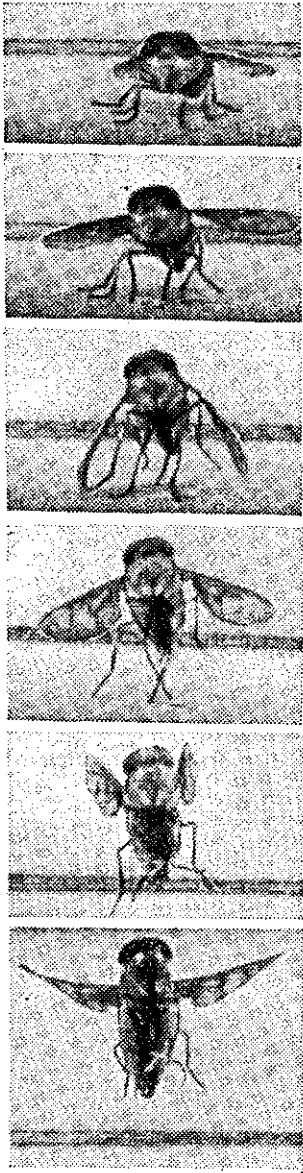
OUR HOMELAND

Historic Glencoe, among the mountains of Argyllshire



The Children's Newspaper, March 17, 1951

A FLY STARTS TO FLY



SCIENTISTS in the Research Laboratories of American General Motors have recently carried out a highly interesting experiment with an ordinary house fly. They wanted to find out exactly what happens when a fly takes to its wings; and in order to get a complete and detailed record of this intricate action made a special high-speed motion picture of the insect's take-off.

The results of their research have yielded many important new facts to the scientists.

EXACTLY

A FARMER witness in a case at Whitby, Yorks, was asked where he was working on a certain date, he replied:

"In field 441 on the Ordnance Survey," he replied.

"That is what comes of filling in forms for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries," commented the Clerk to the Court.

YOUR LAST CHANCE to enter

CN Writing Test of 1951

Just how popular this great Writing Test has become is shown by the very large number of entries that have been flowing into the CN offices. The Test closes on Saturday of this week, and any schools who have not already completed and posted their entries should do so at once.

The address for entries is:

CN Handwriting Test,
5 Carmelite Street,
London, E.C.4 (Comp)
and the

Closing date is March 17

And now parachutes for mischievous beavers

IN North America, beavers are often a problem. They think nothing of felling trees, nibbling through the trunks until the whole tree tumbles to the ground. Landowners have found small groves of trees felled overnight, or fence posts gnawed in half.

Now, beavers are protected by law, and cannot be hunted or killed except by licensed trappers. Their skins are valuable and this law was passed to prevent the beaver race becoming extinct; and it is almost as though the beavers themselves know this, for they certainly seem to play up every time they get the opportunity!

When the ravages of the beavers become too great, however, the conservationist is called in, and he usually carts the whole colony off to new quarters.

The erring beavers used to be carried by road, but this method was seldom satisfactory. Beavers are not good travellers—they cannot stand heat, and many used to die on the journey. Others, unless taken great distances, used simply to turn round on release and make straight for their original home. More often than not they arrived back before the van which had taken them!

But now beavers are delivered to their new homes by parachute. They are packed up in a stout box tied with twine. This string is cut just before the box is parachuted from the plane, and the parachute lines themselves hold the box closed until it reaches the ground. Then the box collapses and the beaver scampers off to his new home—the nearest river or stream.

Even if the box did not open automatically on landing, the beaver would have no difficulty in gnawing his way out. An animal that can eat its way through the trunk of a tree would not long be held captive by a wooden box.

Delivering beavers to start new colonies in this way has been very successful. Sixty-four beavers became "paratroopers" in 1948, the first year of the scheme, and the numbers have grown ever since.

So far, there has been only one known casualty. One intrepid "trooper" gnawed his way out of the box on his way down. He climbed on top and looked around. Instead of staying there until he landed he must have decided that he could get down quicker by himself, and he leapt into space from a height of some 500 feet!

Penguin with a memory

THREE years ago a very bedraggled penguin came ashore at Albert Park, a suburb of Melbourne, exhausted and covered in oil. He was rescued by Mr David Ottensen, secretary of the Life Saving Club, who cleaned and revived him.

After he had rested and recovered strength the bird, now quite tame and answering to the name of Penny, was liberated and immediately headed for the open sea. Nothing was heard of Penny until a few weeks ago he came in from the sea a little exhausted, and strutted along one of Albert Park's main streets.

By a coincidence he was overtaken by Mr Ottensen, who recognised Penny by the missing toenail which he had extracted in 1948. Penny is now quartered in a room at the Life Saving Club, but in the floor there is a hole large enough to allow the penguin to make for the sea should he so desire.

When the Life Saving Club had its annual beach parade recently Penny, the homing penguin, was in the lead.

WILD ANIMALS WANTED

THE Director of the Colombo Zoo has recently been visiting zoos in this country on the lookout for spare animals he can send to Ceylon.

This seems rather like sending coals to Newcastle, but zoos in Ceylon do not want all their charges straight from the jungle. Such wild animals, unused to being behind bars and to being stared at, often sicken and die soon after capture. Zoo animals in this country, on the other hand, are often born in captivity or are accustomed to zoo life, and so they are preferable.

Fish with a frown

ANTONIO CAFARELLA and his four men on a Brindisi fishing smack fought all night to get a huge fish aboard. Then they saw it had "a head like a torpedo, a mouthful of big yellow teeth, little pig eyes on either side of the head, and a deep indented vertical frown on top of its head, which disappeared back into the spine."

They took this strange catch back to Costa Morena, and as it was of no use for the market they set it up on five tables in a café in the main street and then admitted the public at 3d per head.

Business was quite brisk, and it was just as well it was or their night's fishing would have been wasted. In the evening they decided to fry some of this frowning fish, and found it quite uneatable!

The Safe Way

WITH the present big demand for CN the only way of making sure of your copy each Wednesday is to place an order with your newsagent.

Anti-dazzle for lighthouses?

So considerable is the damage to lighthouse lanterns each year by migratory birds crashing into them that the Northern Lighthouse Commissioners, who control lights off the Scottish coast, have invited anyone with an inventive turn of mind to send in suggestions which would prevent the birds being dazzled.

Lighthouse beams which mean safety to our ships bring death to thousands of birds every spring. The birds flying in from the Atlantic come into the flashing beams from Fair Isle, May

CRAVEN HILL'S report from the London Zoo.

SAM FINDS A FRIEND

THESE are awkward days for Sam, the London Zoo's monkey-eating eagle, for he is having to transfer his loyalties.

Sam came from the Philippines in 1939, and until recently had been looked after by Mr David Lambden, Headkeeper of the birds-of-prey aviaries. Now Mr Lambden has retired, and Sam is having to accustom himself to the new Headkeeper, Mr Jack Ward, who told me:

"At first, Sam was puzzled by the change, and was inclined to distrust me, but now he is coming round all right.

"At the Zoo we do not, of course, give this monkey-eating eagle monkeys—luckily, he takes rabbits instead. Mr Lambden used to hand-feed Sam. When I first took over, nothing would induce the eagle to feed from my hand, but he does so now, and we are getting on quite good terms.

"Besides being our costliest bird of prey—he is valued at £500—Sam is also one of our heaviest eagles. When his weight was taken a few months ago he turned the scales at 30 lbs. I intend to weigh him again at a later stage, when we are even better friends than we are today."

A WELL-KNOWN bird to pass away the other day was Nelson, the one-eyed king penguin.

Nelson was one of 24 penguins brought from the Antarctic in 1947. Keepers noticed then that he had only one good eye, the other having been damaged apparently by a jab from one of his companions' beaks. The injury was examined by an eye specialist, who decided that no operation could restore the sight of the eye.

Nelson was accordingly given specially sympathetic treatment by Headkeeper Hubert Jones, who hand-fed the half-blind penguin daily.

ONE of the few men responsible for the post-war restocking of the London Zoo and bringing the collection up to its present high level is resigning from the Society. He is 55-year-old Mr Cecil Webb, curator of mammals and birds.

Mr Webb is leaving for private reasons, and may later resume wild animal collecting, which was his occupation before the war.

Before taking up his present post in 1948, Mr Webb was for two years the Society's "curator-collector," a post specially created for him. During this period he made several trips overseas.

Many of the animals he then brought home with him have since become stars. Among them are Dickie, the only African elephant now at Regent's Park; and the giraffe Girle, who recently gave birth to a calf at Whipsnade. Another is the rare Thomson's gazelle which is so fond of Mr Webb that, as he himself told me, whenever he passes the gazelles' quarters on his way home each evening, he has to go on tiptoe lest the animal run out into the cold air from its warm, snug bedroom to greet him!

Like most collectors, he has had his narrow escapes. One of his closest calls occurred when he was getting some birds in West Africa a few years ago. Putting his hand into a burrow to investigate the nest of a kingfisher, he touched a viper which had curled up there. Had it bitten him it might have killed him, or at least put him on the sick list for many weeks.

AT THE ZOO

THE picture on the left shows three young ladies who paraded at the Children's Zoo in Regent's Park in the new uniforms designed for the Festival of Britain Children's Zoo in Battersea Park.

Brumas the young Polar bear is fast growing up, but she still attracts crowds at the London Zoo, where she has learnt to "beg" for tit-bits, as we see in the picture below.



Happy people down under

Good pupils make enthusiastic teachers, and this has been emphasised in New Zealand, where the education authorities have recently commended the progress made in the Maori school system.

The teacher himself has often a hard life, for his job does not end at the school door. His school may be in some inaccessible place where the Maoris come to him for advice on social and domestic problems. He administers medicine to the sick, organises community functions, contributes to worthy causes, and is often the local postmaster and registrar of births and deaths.

His pupils, however, make up for it all. They have a wonderful spirit, and are as intelligent as European children, showing greater ability in handwork—and often in arithmetic! They are amenable to discipline, ambitious and industrious, and above all, they have a delightful sense of humour.

Their own home life is sometimes a handicap. Many of them have to milk the cows before and after school.

Co-operation from parents in school affairs is unknown in some parts, and in others opposition to education still exists, and superstition is rife.

Nevertheless, the teachers would not change places with those in European schools—they are too fond of their young Maoris.

LIFE-SAVING HUT

THREE young R A F men trapped by darkness 1500 feet up on the snow-covered slopes of Sgurr Amhain, in Glen Nevis, survived the bitter cold by building a hut.

They used boulders, hacked off trees and branches with ice-axes, and packed snow to make their hut; and there they were able to have a meal and sleep, making their way down safely at dawn.

Steps to Sporting Fame



John Carey, aged 32, captain of Manchester United, of Ireland, and of Eire, is one of football's most accomplished players, acclaimed wherever he appears.



Manchester United signed him in 1936. John arrived from Dublin one November evening, saw a newsbill with the words "United's New Star," and eagerly bought a paper. The star was a famous forward from Blackburn!



The 17-year-old Carey had to wait for fame until after the war, in which he served in Italy. It was a great day for him when, in May 1947, he captained the Rest of Europe against Britain at Hampden Park, Glasgow.

John Carey



In April 1948 he led Manchester United's cup-winning team at Wembley and soon afterwards was voted "Footballer of the Year" by the Football Writers' Association, and presented with a silver statuette.

The sorcerer's apprentice

A school where young people between 14 and 18 can learn to be conjurers has been formed by the London Society of Magicians. This "Student Section" meets on alternate Wednesday evenings from 6.30 to 8.30 at the London Welsh Hall, Gray's Inn Road.

At these meetings—from which the uninitiated are carefully excluded—lectures are given by well-known Masters of this Art, and there are talks and demonstrations, all planned to provide a practical knowledge of Magic.

Anyone meeting a stray rabbit in the Gray's Inn Road will know that some would-be wizard has produced it in the wrong place, and squeaks coming from the Hall itself may denote that another is not making too good a job of sawing a lady in half!

The students are on probation for four years, and then must pass a test to become full members of the Society.

More information can be obtained from Mr Geoffrey A. Robinson, 14 Bristol House, Southampton Row, WC1.

SHE WROTE BEST-SELLERS FOR A NOBLE CAUSE

CHARLOTTE MARY YONGE, the talented Victorian authoress, who died at Otterbourne, near Winchester, on March 24, exactly 50 years ago, was in her day what we term a "best-seller." One book alone, *The Heir of Redclyffe*, ran through 22 editions in 23 years, and during her lifetime she published 160 books—a truly amazing achievement.

High principles

Her literary earnings were considerable, yet so high-principled was she that she felt she should only make profit out of her writings if she gave the money away. So, from the income which *The Heir of Redclyffe* brought her she built a schooner for Bishop Selwyn's mission work in the South Seas, and the profits of another book helped to build a missionary college in New Zealand.

It might almost be said that she dedicated her literary earnings to missionary effort at home and abroad. She lived to see the founding of many churches, schools, and bishoprics; and to

hear of great things accomplished in the mission field in Australia, New Zealand, and British Columbia with the help of the funds her writings had made available.

Charlotte Yonge was a born teacher as well as an enthusiastic student, and began as a very young girl to take her place at the head of a Sunday-school class, and under the influence of those ardent parish workers, John Keble, the vicar of Otterbourne, and his wife, developed into a vigorous helper in the village church and school. Her life, indeed, centred on the new church there, to which she gave much of her income.

Writing as well as teaching began early, and after success

had brought her fame and fortune, she still continued to produce stories of home-life, historical novels, and educational books which even today are recognised as school-room classics. She covered English history to the end of the Stuart period in eight volumes which she called *Cameos*.

Long-felt need

Although her books now seem stiff and stilted, they were progressive in her generation, supplying what had become a long-felt need—religion well-handled in literature.

But writing was far from being her sole occupation, for, in the words of an admirer, she worked unceasingly "to fulfil a round of parish and domestic duties which would have filled the lives of most women."

Her quiet life, spent in the secluded Hampshire countryside in the valley through which the Itchen flows, is one of the most remarkable proofs of the wide influence that may be exerted by people who make little fuss.

JUST TWO NUMBERS

NUMBER AF 12345678 in the United States Air Force is held by a man named Griffin. Number LAC 1234567 in the Royal Air Force was a man named Griffith!

NICHOLAS NICKLEBY—New picture-version of Dickens's great novel (2)

Nicholas Nickleby's father died leaving his family almost penniless and Nicholas, aged 19, was obliged to follow his uncle's advice and take a job as assistant

master at Dotheboys Hall, Yorkshire. When he arrived there he was bitterly disappointed, for it turned out to be a school for unwanted boys, who were half starved and ill-

treated by Wackford Squeers, the "Headmaster." Nicholas detested this place but, for the sake of his mother and sister, he dared not offend his hard-hearted uncle by leaving.



The oldest boy at Dotheboys Hall was a poor creature named Smike, who was about 18. He had no friends or relations and was kept as a drudge and cruelly ill-used. Nicholas boiled with indignation at the treatment given Smike. Because Smike became attached to him, Mrs Squeers took a dislike to Nicholas, telling her husband that his assistant was a "haughty, consequential, turned-up-nosed peacock."



Squeers' daughter Fanny, aged 23, fell in love with Nicholas. She and her friend happened to meet him out walking, and the friend, with much simpering, said that Fanny thought Nicholas was in love with her. Tactfully, Nicholas denied this and added that the one object dear to his heart was to turn his back on this accursed place and never set foot in it again, or even think of it but with loathing and disgust. Then he bowed and walked off.



Fanny now hated Nicholas, and she and her mother egged on Squeers to ill-treat Smike even more, because Nicholas had befriended him. One morning Smike disappeared. Squeers came shouting for him into the room where Nicholas slept with the boys, but Smike had evidently run away. Squeers accused Nicholas of helping him, then declared he would only stop short of flaying Smike alive when he caught him.



Squeers drove off in a chaise in one direction to catch Smike, and his wife drove off in another. Mrs Squeers, who had a man with her, returned triumphant with Smike bound to the chaise. The poor drudge looked more dead than alive. Later Squeers dragged the piteous creature before the whole school and was about to give him a severe thrashing when Nicholas, beside himself with indignation, cried "Stop!"

How will brutal Squeers take Nicholas's interference? See next week's instalment



THE GALLANT THIRD OF MILBOURNE

Grand new series of amusing school yarns

The Ants Club (1)



I was young Sprottle who discovered the ant-hill at the foot of one of the apple trees behind the San. He had never seen such an enormous heap in his life, he said, reporting to Mr Grimmett's illustrious Third Form. And all the ants were hurrying and scurrying about without knocking off for an instant; although what they supposed they were doing he couldn't imagine.

"What I want to know," put in Jellicombe, "is what are ants for?"

But Pettifer knew. Of course he did. He knew everything.

"Ants," he responded concisely, "are models of industry."

"My uncle is an artist," gaped Wheat. "And I know jolly well that he doesn't use ants as his models."

But Balmforth had the answer ready for that. "To begin with, Wheat," he said courteously, "you are an ass. To go on with," he continued, turning to Jellicombe, "when Pettifer calls an ant a model of industry he means that its job is to teach people not to waste time."

"No, I thought," argued Wheat, "that the busy bees had to do that. As our Poetry Primer says, doesn't it? Improving the shining hour, you know; that's what it says."

"I don't care what it says," scoffed Balmforth, no poet. "I only know that ants are meant to teach industry."

"Like the ones I watched on the ant heap," seconded Sprottle. "And I tell you it was a lesson to me," he said firmly.

"A lesson? In what way?" scoffed Jellicombe.

"Well, consider," countered young Sprottle. "Would you say, Jellicombe, that we men in the Third are industrious? Or wouldn't you say that?"

This brought a sigh from Maxton, who had just joined them. "I know that I work as hard as I can," he confessed. "But as I explained to the Grim Bird, things go in one ear and out at the other before I have time to pin them down in my brain."

"Which is bad luck for you," remarked Pettifer, shrugging his shoulders. "But I tell you what," he said brightly, and turned to the others. "The exams aren't so very far off now. So we've jolly well got to work harder. Do you see what I'm driving at, Jellicombe?"

"No," grunted Jellicombe.

"We shall model ourselves on the ants. Half a moment," said Pettifer thoughtfully. Then, "I've got it!" he exclaimed. "We shall form ourselves into an Ants Club. Yes, that's the idea. And *labor omnia vincit* shall be the Club's motto. Translate, friend Wheat," he invited in the Grim Bird's best style.

"Translate it yourself," Wheat said, baffled.

"All right. I will. It means hard work conquers everything. You'll see it in your Latin

Primer," smiled Pettifer. "And listen! We mustn't be greedy and keep the Club to ourselves. We shall admit every man in the Lower School who is qualified."

"Qualified?" echoed Whitstable. "How do you mean?"

"Well," said Pettifer, thinking harder and harder, "it will be a great distinction to be a member of The Ants Club, just like being a member of the M.C.C., don't you know. So the chaps must distinguish themselves before we elect them."

"You mean every chap?" Balmforth demanded.

"No," said Pettifer guardedly. "The Third Form, as the Club's

—by—

GUNBY HADATH

founders, go in at once. It's the other men in Lower School who have to distinguish themselves first."

"Will the Club have a President and officers?" Balmforth persisted.

"Officers?" Wheat interjected. "We're not in the Army."

"That doesn't matter a hoot, Wheat. All clubs have officers to conduct their affairs, and to see that the Treasurer collects the subscriptions."

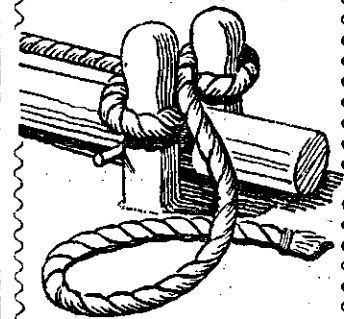
"Do you mean that we've got to pay to belong?" groaned young Sprottle.

"Of course you have. Every Club needs money to keep up its premises."

"And where will its premises be, Pettifer, please?"

Sailors say . . .

(The nautical origins of terms in everyday use.)



4. BITTER END

On a sailing ship the bitts are two strong timbers in the fore part of the main deck round which the cable has a turn when a vessel rides at anchor. "Bitter" means one turn of the cable round the bitts, and the bitter end was that part of the cable abaft the bitts, and therefore within board when a ship was at anchor.

When used ashore the term "bitter end" refers to any situation where a person is holding on until the very last moment.

"That remains to be seen, Sprottle. You must leave it to Balmforth and me to find the most suitable. And Jellicombe will be on the Committee as well."

"Thank you," drawled Jellicombe. "But considering that I was only the cook on our ship, *The Good Intent*, I do think you ought to promote me this time."

"Well, isn't being on the Committee promotion?" stared Pettifer.

"Not good enough, old man. I'd rather be Treasurer."

But Wheat had a word to say here. "No! We'll toss up for that," he cried hopefully.

"One doesn't toss up for treasurers. Jellicombe is appointed."

"Thanks, Pettifer," replied Jellicombe. "How much will the sub be?"

"A penny a week. Paid every Saturday morning," said Pettifer, who had got it all cut and dried. "And any defaulter to be booted at once from the Club. Do you all agree to that?"

"Fair enough," they assented.

THEY were wasting no time, and at four o'clock that afternoon, assembling under the apple trees behind the San, they formally founded Milbourne School's famous Ants Club and inscribed their names in its Register as its first members. There only remained the canvassing of recruits, the appointment of the Club's Secretary, and that of its President.

"Take 100 new members first," argued Balmforth. "We don't want the Club's existence broadcast at once. We want to pick our men quietly to begin with."

"Yes. Just as we picked the crew of *The Good Intent*."

"But more so," growled Balmforth. "The crew of *The Good Intent* let me down at the pinch. We are not going to have any men we can't trust in the Ants Club."

"Not we!" agreed Pettifer. "We shall do this job thoroughly. Don't forget what the Grim Bird told us last week. If a thing is worth doing at all it is worth doing well, he said. On second thoughts I suggest we take that as our motto."

But Balmforth shook his head. "Too long," he insisted. "I'd rather stick to your *labor omnia et cetera*."

"And so would I?" piped Wheat. "And don't you think that I ought to be Secretary? All swaggar clubs have secretaries to write their letters."

"They do," observed Pettifer coldly.

"Then considering that I'm the best handwriter in the Third I'll take it on to oblige you. How much will the screw be?"

"So far as I know most club secretaries are Hon Secs," said Balmforth.

"Are you trying to hint," pro-

Continued on page 10



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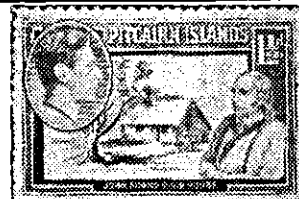
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The Gallant Third of Milbourne

Continued from page 9

tested Wheat, "that I am not honourable?"

"But Hon doesn't stand for 'honourable,' it stands for 'honorary.' Which means that an Hon Sec's not paid."

Wheat's sanguine face fell. "Then I think it's a swizzle," he snapped. "You don't catch me being Secretary of your rotten Club. And not only that: I resign from the Club straight away."

"Please yourself," observed Balmforth indifferently.

So after young Sprottle had been appointed Hon Sec, they proceeded to deliberate who should be President. The President must be a person of standing and dignity. Would Pettifer take it on?

No, he wouldn't, he told them. As Chairman of the Committee his hands would be full. And he had to find the Club's premises as well, hadn't he? And to whip up recruits? No, thank you, he wouldn't be President.

"I think you're right," said Balmforth. He waited a moment. And then he said: "What about Grimmett?"

"The Grim Bird!" they ejaculated in awe.

"The Grim Bird. Yes. We should not tell him, of course. I mean not immediately," said Balmforth persuasively. "We must wait till we've all come through the exams with flying colours and then we shall let out the honour we've paid him by forming the Ants Club and appointing him its first President."

"He'll be awfully bucked!" beamed young Sprottle.

"I propose the Grim Bird as the Club's President."

"Will anybody second that?" Balmforth demanded.

"I second that," said Pettifer, rather resentful that Balmforth seemed to be doing most of the talking. "But only on the strict understanding that we don't let it out before the exams. So hands up those who vote for the Grim Bird as President."

And every hand, excepting Wheat's, rose at once.

BUT now began the task of finding new members; only picked men, as Pettifer had stipulated, men they could trust.

The first they enrolled were Farjon and Luce, of West House; both qualified by an eminence in junior games which left their mathematics down in the depths.

"Of course your jolly old Club will coach us in Maths," they said.

"Of course," replied Pettifer rashly.

"And if we don't pass the exams you return us our subs."

"Certainly not," replied Pettifer. "Certainly not, Farjon. Your subs go to pay for keeping up the Club's premises."

"But you haven't said where those are yet?"

"That remains to be seen," rejoined Pettifer. "We haven't decided. But mark you, both of you. You must stick to your promise that you won't let out to the Grim Bird that he's our President."

"No, never!" they echoed. "No! Never!"

How will the Ants Club fare? See next week's concluding instalment.

BEDTIME CORNER

Janet makes a friend

"I REALLY must get you a hat with your new colours," said Mummie, as Janet prepared for school. "But I just haven't had a moment."

Janet and her parents had just moved, and Janet had been at her new school only two days.

She had just left the house when suddenly, from over the hedge of the next-door garden, a school hat came hurtling. Janet made a grab at it, but the wind whirled it away and bowled it down the road. She dashed after it and managed to rescue it.

From the next-door house a

girl of her own age came hurrying up. "Oh, thanks!" she said. "It would have been ruined if it had gone much farther. Now I must dash or I shall be late for school."

"I go to your school," said Janet shyly, having recognised the school colours. And she explained that she was a new pupil.

"Well, that's fine," said the other girl. "We'll go together."

And Janet soon found that the school hat had brought her a new friend.

THE ELFIN WRITER

IN a mighty hollow oak, by the hazel copse, Elves are making Easter eggs and dainties for the shops. Chocolate birds upon their nests, chicks and ducklings too; Eggs of coloured marzipan, yellow, green, and blue. One old elf works all alone, writing names with skill On each egg in frosted ice, Shirley, Eve, and Jill, Christine, Janet, Lana, Pearl, Peter, Pat, and Hugh. Perhaps he'll write your name in ice, on an egg for you.

15th-century prayer

JESUS CHRIST, to Thee I call;
Thou art our God and full of might;
Keep Thou me clean lest I do fall
In deadly sin by day and night.

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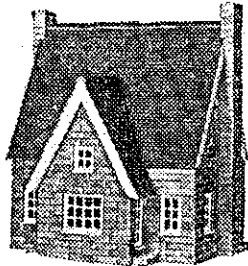
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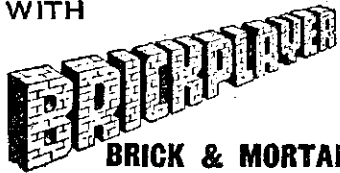
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C N Bookshelf

A D 1154—1485

The Middle Ages, by Arthur B. Allen (Rockliff, 12s 6d).

THIS is an excellent, well-illustrated book which succeeds in breathing life into the study of history. It sketches the background of a fascinating period and will undoubtedly whet the interest of young students and make them eager to learn more for themselves. History is here revealed as the life of our forebears and not as a mere chronicle of outstanding events.

Countryside delight

Come Out of Doors, by G. D. Dimsdale (Hutchinson, 10s 6d).

THIS is one of the best Nature books that has come our way for many a day. It cannot fail to enhance the reader's enjoyment of the great out-of-doors, wherever his excursions into the countryside may take him, and whatever the time of year. Finely produced and beautifully illustrated with photographs and with drawings by C. F. Tunncliffe, this is a book every young nature-lover will welcome.

In Piccadilly Circus



This sketch is from *London Adventure* written and illustrated by Margaret M. Pearson (Harrap) 7s 6d, an excellent guide for older boys and girls to everything worth visiting in and around the capital.

In desolate places

Men Against the Desert, by Ritchie Calder (Allen & Unwin, 12s 6d).

LAST year Mr Ritchie Calder was sent by Unesco on a journey through North Africa and the Middle East to report on the struggle to throw back the encroachments of the deserts. This book of his adventures is full of surprises. Strange people manage to survive there, odd things are shown to the traveller, such as the sand rose, a beautiful cluster of sand petals, hard as glass, formed by dew and sun.

Mr Calder has done splendid work in drawing attention to these wasted areas.

SCHOOLS OF LONG AGO

STUDENTS of English history, particularly the part of it related to popular learning, owe much to the researches of that gifted scholar Arthur Francis Leach, who was born on March 16 just 100 years ago.

Distinguished both at Winchester and at New College, Oxford, Arthur Leach did much to reveal the true story of English education down the ages. Often his researches occasioned surprise, as when he proved that the romantic story of the foundation of 51 'new' grammar schools by Edward the Sixth was a misreading of history.

Greatest story of all

God So Loved the World, by Elizabeth Goudge (Hodder & Stoughton, 10s 6d).

TO recount the life of Jesus from Bethlehem to Calvary was a challenging task that called for high courage and no less skill. But this famous novelist—author of *Green Dolphin Country*—has successfully devoted all her talents to the great theme. None will welcome this retelling of the story more warmly than those who know it best.

Your first pictures

Coloured Paper Craft for Infant Schools, by Frederick T. Day (Newnes, 5s).

SMALL people love arranging pieces of coloured paper to make pictures, and Mr Day, who is an expert on this method of learning while playing, goes thoroughly into the subject in his book. He explains how children too young even to handle scissors can achieve results with pieces of paper already cut.

Holiday task

Green Ink, by Ruth Leaver (Harrap, 7s 6d).

FATHER is an editor, and his two young daughters join his staff as reporters while waiting to go to their new boarding school. Their experiences provide an interesting insight into the work of producing a local newspaper.

Scottish treasure hunt

The Affair at Invergarroch, by Michael Elder (Black, 6s).

A JOLLY yarn about a party of boys and girls in Scotland who get on the trail of an ancient cathedral's treasures. Their adventures are very readably told by an author who is not much older than his characters, but who is well acquainted with Scottish life and history.

Recommended books

THE Spangled Heavens—an introduction to Astronomy—by Lawrence Edwards (The Bodley Head, 7s 6d).

Another Job for Biggles, by Captain W. E. Johns (Hodder & Stoughton, 6s).

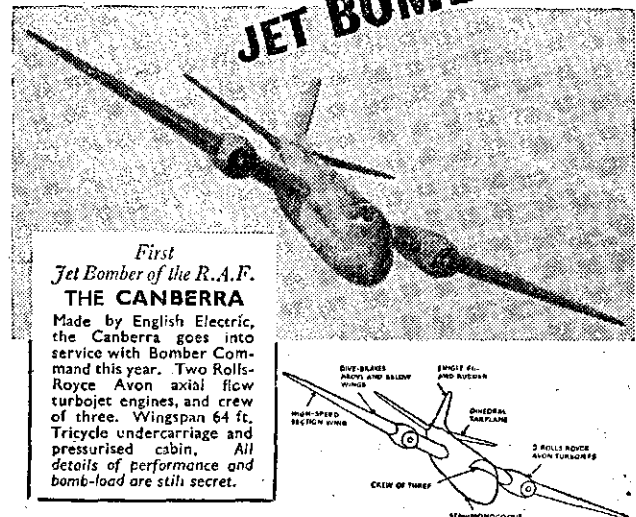
The Right Way to Keep Pet Fish, by Reginald Dutta, and The Right Way to Swim, by Winifred Gibson (Right Way Books, 6s each).

The Story of Prehistoric Civilisations, by Dorothy Davison (C. A. Watts, 12s 6d).

The Adventures of Jan and Jennifer, by Don Edwards (one of Harrap's excellent York Series for Young Children, 4s each).

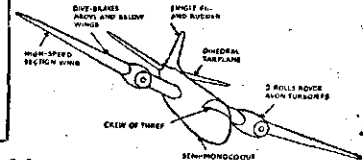
The Young Traveller in Canada, by J. H. Ingram (Phoenix House, 7s 6d).

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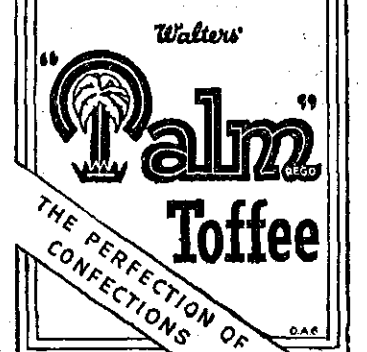
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THE BRAN TUB

The end

THE office-cleaner went in to see the manager.

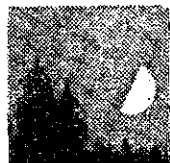
"Look here, sir," he said, "I must have a new broom. Three times last week the head came off this one, and now the handle has come out."

No bounce

A STOLID young fellow named Ball,
Climbed onto the top of a wall.
Now the poor chap's in bed,
For he fell on his head,
And his name didn't help him at all.

Other worlds

IN the evening Venus is in the west, Uranus in the south, and Saturn low in the east. In the morning no planets are visible. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at 10 o'clock on Thursday evening, March 15.



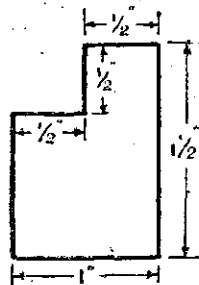
Way with peas

"THE man who eats peas with a knife I look upon as a lost creature," wrote Sir William S. Gilbert. Undoubtedly lost is the writer of this rhyme:
I eat my peas with honey—
I've done it all my life.
It makes the peas taste funny,
But it keeps them on the knife.

Acid tongue

"JONES, what is HNO₃?" asked the chemistry professor.
"Er—I've got it on the tip of my tongue," said Jones.
"Well, get rid of it quickly—it's nitric acid."

Puzzle this out



Cut out four pieces of cardboard or paper exactly on the lines of the pattern here, then arrange them to make the same shape, but twice as wide and twice as deep.

Answer next week

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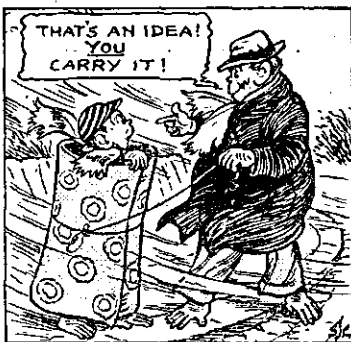
Jacko was not clever, after all



Battling his way home against the wind, Jacko found fine protection.



"Blow, thou winter wind," quoth he; "thou art not so unkind..."



But he changed his mind when he found himself lined up in the line.

Diplomat

JOHNSON: Friend Jenkins is a master of tact.

JACKSON: Yes; he even makes his unwelcome visitors feel at home—when he wishes they were.

Deduction

TEACHER was testing four of her pupils' knowledge of flowers. "These pictures show four different types of flowers," she said. "What are they?"

The four sets of answer handed in were:

Lily Lilac Daisy Rose
Lily Rose Lilac Daisy
Rose Lily Daisy Lilac
Daisy Lilac Lily Rose

"Three of you each have two right, but one of you got all of them wrong." Can you find the correct answers? Answer next week

March halves

HERE are six famous people with their anniversaries in March, but you have to put each tail to the right head. You should find two writers (both English, one of them a woman), a scientist, and the founder of a great library (also both English), a Roman general, and a German writer.

BOD SAR
CAE TON
GOE LEY
BRO RNE
STE THE
NEW NTE

Answer next week

RODDY



"I say, can you make it reverse and turn them back into meat?"

Slight omission

THE new typist had been sent in to take letters from the great man, who dictated rather quickly. At the end of the first letter the girl asked sweetly:

"Would you mind just repeating what you said between 'Dear Sir' and 'Yours faithfully'?"

Cat out of the bag

THIS phrase is used when some secret act or intention has been exposed.

The expression is closely linked with the phrase "Buying a pig in a poke." In olden days, young pigs were sold at country fairs in sacks (or pokes, as they were called).

Unscrupulous traders would sometimes put a cat in the bag instead of a pig, and the unsuspecting purchaser would not discover the fraud until it was too late. The more experienced buyers, however, always inspected the contents of the sack at the time of purchase—and the cat was well and truly out of the bag!

The Prolific Banana

THE banana is probably the most prolific of the food plants.

The tree grows in the wet forest regions of the Tropics, and supplies food all the year. A single cluster may weigh as much as 80 pounds and have 150 fruits. The suckers of bananas begin to produce fruit in a few months.

Last week's answers

Hidden flowers. Petunia, peony, pansy, tulip, lupin, delphinium, phlox, rose, aster, dahlia.

Which town is this? Swindon.

Skeleton proverbs. Honesty is the best policy. He who goes a-borrowing goes a-sorrowing. A stitch in time saves nine. Faint heart ne'er won fair lady.

ASPEN	MAR
STY	IMAGE
PALACE	EC
PROBENT	A
ETNA	TAIL
LE	SPRATIN
ET	TELLER
CHASE	MORE
TEN	FORTE



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